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25 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Comments on Draft Defense Mobilization Order

1. It appears that the terms of the proposed draft Defense Mobilization Order would operate as a bar to the construction or acquisition of any new permanent headquarters for Central Intelligence Agency in the Washington area, unless a case could be made in favor of such construction or acquisition under the provisions of Paragraph 3, Exceptions. Although it is felt that no agency can justifiably resist the concept of forbidding new construction in the Washington area under the assumptions incident to dispersal and relocation planning, nevertheless, we believe that if this Agency should undertake to justify an exception under Paragraph 3, the Secretary of Commerce is not qualified to pass upon the validity of its reasons therefor.

2. It is, therefore, recommended that any concurrence accorded the proposed draft order be accompanied by the reservation that this Agency, by reason of the nature of its mission, be permitted to make its own determination and decision regarding future housing of its headquarters in the Washington area.

/s/
L. E. WHITE
Acting Deputy Director
(Administration)

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